



“Look Before You Lock” Program is sponsored by the Arkansas Hospital Auxiliary Association.

Information and statistics contained in this brochure were taken from the following sources:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Kids and Cars
SafeKids

Photo provided by Allison Callaway Spraggins

WHERE'S BABY?



LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK!

A SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM SPONSORED BY
THE ARKANSAS HOSPITAL AUXILIARY ASSOCIATION

Child Vehicular Heat Stroke Facts

Vehicular heat stroke is largely misunderstood by the general public. The majority of parents are misinformed and would like to believe that they could never “**forget**” their child in a vehicle.

The most dangerous mistake a parent or caregiver can make is to think leaving a child alone in a vehicle could never happen to them or their family.

In well over 50% of these cases, the person responsible for the child’s death **unknowingly** left them in the vehicle. In most situations this happens to the most loving, caring and protective parents. It has happened to a teacher, dentist, social worker, police officer, nurse, clergyman, soldier and even a rocket scientist.

Even on a mild day, a child trapped in a hot car can die of a heat stroke or hyperthermia in just minutes. On average, 38 children die in the U. S. each year from heat-related deaths, after being trapped inside motor vehicles. What is most tragic is that all of these deaths are completely preventable!

The inside of a vehicle heats up **VERY** quickly! Even with the windows cracked, the temperature inside a car can reach 125 degrees in minutes. **Also remember this when leaving your PETS in the car!!**

80% of the increase in temperature happens in the first 10 minutes. A child’s body overheats 3-5 times faster than an adult body and have died from heatstroke in cars in temps as low as 60 degrees.

Prevention / Safety Tips

“**Look Before You Lock**” – Get in the habit of **always** opening the back door to check in the back seat before leaving your vehicle. Make sure no child has been left behind.

Create a Reminder to Check the Back Seat:

Put something you’ll need like, **your handbag, brief case, employee ID, or cell phone, etc.**, in the back seat so that you have to open the back door to retrieve that item every time you park. You could even put your **left shoe** in the back seat. You most definitely would have to open the back door to retrieve your shoe!

Keep a large stuffed animal in the child’s car seat. When the child is placed in the car seat, put the stuffed animal in the front passenger seat. It’s a visual reminder that the child is in the back seat.

Make a strict policy with your childcare provider that if your child does not show up as scheduled; they will contact you **immediately**. In turn, you will agree to **always** call the childcare provider if your child will not be there on a particular day or times as scheduled.

Always lock your vehicle doors and trunk and keep the keys out of a child’s reach. If a child is missing, quickly check all vehicles, including the trunk.

If you see a child alone in a vehicle, **get involved!** **Call 911 immediately!** If the child seems hot or sick, get them out of the vehicle as quickly as possible.

Be especially careful during busy times, schedule changes, and periods of crisis or holidays. This is when most tragedies occur.

Please share these important safety tips with your childcare providers, teachers, relatives, friends, family and neighbors.....It could save a life!